

Sermon Notes

Insights from Luke

#53 – “Kingdom Growth” – Luke 13:18-21

I. Introduction

A. Effective communication

1. Several components are necessary.
 - a. Being clear.
 - b. Maintain central idea and repeat it often.

B. The central idea

1. The kingdom of God is upon you.
 - a. Found in numerous texts: Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:43, 6:20, 11:20, 17:20-21, Acts 1:3

C. Now, Luke adds two back to back parables.

1. They stress the onset and growth of the kingdom.
2. Text: Luke 13:18-21

II. Exposition

A. Note placement of these two parables.

1. Included just after the healing of the woman bound by an evil spirit.
2. Her restoration highlights the broader restoration of man’s soul.
3. Typical of Luke – Parables in pairs.
 - a. A.B. Bruce

Extensive Growth

Intensive Growth

B. Luke 13:18-19

1. Certainly resonates with the farmers.
2. Not higher critic attack on veracity of the Scripture.
 - a. Mustard seed – smallest in Palestine or smallest in the region.
3. Keep in mind smallness of size of the seed and plant. The seed grows into a huge bush.
 - a. “Nested “ birds.
4. The kingdom’s future size was not in the beginning.

C. Luke 13:20-21

1. For all the bakers among us.
2. Leaven – It seems at first inconsequential, being invisible.
3. “Three peck measures” – about fifty pounds.

III. Further Insights.

A. Point #1: Note risk while interpreting parables.

1. More can be read into them than what is intended.
2. Case in point – Premillennial view of the kingdom.
 - a. Helmut Thielicke
3. Philip Ryken

B. Point #2: It all seemed so insignificant.

1. Only few people followed Jesus at this time.
2. Where was all the public display?
 - a. The Nazi’s were great at public display.
 - b. J.C. Ryle.
3. The kingdom always grows.

C. Point #3: Leaven as a metaphor for sin.

1. Jesus is not using the term in this context in relationship to sin – leaven always does something – It expands.

D. Point #4: Tree nesting birds have a connection to the Old Testament.

1. Ezekiel. 17:23; 31:6
2. Nebuchadnezzar’s dream about birds. (Daniel 4).

E. Point #5: Intensive growth

1. It affects everything.
 - a. Ryken, Kistemacher.

IV. Points for Reflection.

A. The growth of the kingdom does not mean a Christianized world.

1. Matthew 7:13-14

B. Be encouraged: If you belong to Jesus, you will grow.

1. Philippians 1:6

C. World or national events always stand in contrast to God’s Seed or God’s leaven achieving all He purposes to achieve.

D. Sure hope for my own soul.